

Minutes of Clonduff GAA Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 27th November 2019

Present: Pdraig Matthews (Chairman), Niamh Murray (Secretary), Daniel McPolin (Treasurer) and 55 other Club members

Minutes of 2018 AGM

Proposed by Anita Brannigan seconded by Shane Quinn

Adoption of Standing Orders

Proposed by Tommy Kelly seconded by John Murphy

Trustees and Constitution endorsed on proposal of Pdraig Matthews seconded by Tommy Kelly.

Chairman outlined that there are some positions on Executive for which there are no nominations but it was agreed to proceed with Election of Officers tonight.

Secretary's Report

Niamh summarized the Secretary's Report, which was available online prior to AGM to members.

Football: Vincent Devlin said it was great to see senior football progress and finish third in league but the mid-summer collapse probably cost us. He wondered if there was no 'Plan B' against Kilcoo in the semi-final of Championship. Paudie replied that we did have injuries and it would be wrong for us to blame management – management are back next year and we are looking forward to 2020.

Juvenile Football:

A member questioned the large numbers at underage and how do we retain these?

Dropping down to 'odd age-groups' at underage so should retain some numbers but there will be natural drop-out as they get older. Need to ensure that all children are getting games.

It was felt we have managements in place that will help retain players. The Co Underage review highlighted that this is a problem in a number of clubs. Hopefully U19 age group will help retention rate

Another member questioned why did we not field a Feile team?' It transpired that a number of players were unable to attend that weekend - it is frustrating. Perhaps we should we have looked at U12s.

Underage managements for 2020 have been ratified and we are happy that these people are capable of guiding our underage teams in the new season.

The question was asked should Club take a firmer stance on players going on holidays, or playing abroad, etc.

These are volunteers and have the right to choose – players should want to play for Clonduff.

Managements that are in place will earn the respect of the players and parents and keep an eye-out for drop-outs. Minor drop-out has been an issue but PJ is going to work with these players at Thirds level in 2020.

Player culture is highlighted at the review meeting. We need to continue to work on our standards - the work has started but it won't happen overnight. Player peaks happen at different stages – important to hold players especially if there are big numbers

Scór – Success breeds success with juvenile numbers increasing and we accommodated them all. Anita thanked Thomas for his work. Thomas said the Novelty Act is back this year and the young actors did really well winning the South Down title, one of four titles won by Clonduff.

Thomas thanked everyone for their work and cooperation and whilst he was stepping down from the Executive he would remain as Cultural Officer if that was possible.

Fields & Facilities: Issue with water bottles on pitches discussed – this needs to be addressed – teams need to take responsibility to lift bottles after training.

Development: Paudie reported that we are currently waiting to hear back from ABBO regarding plans – it's at ABBO's discretion as they are covering the cost of submitting the plans. We had a useful meeting with Chris Hazzard recently

Questioned why are ABBO paying for our plans? We have stated we are neither for nor against the Windfarms – as a goodwill gesture ABBO have agreed to cover cost of submitting the plans. A member felt in no uncertain terms that this was contrary to what was agreed.

Camogie Report

Guinevra McGilligan outlined Camogie Report (which was also available online prior to AGM) highlighting the successes of the year, particularly the All Ireland Club title and thanked Clonduff Club for their support and everyone for their sponsorship.

Treasurer's Report

1. Daniel outlined Supplies Account and Income and Expenditure Account for 2019.
 - Our margins are very good. There were no stock takes throughout the year, through no one person's fault. Stock Take at 7th November – 3.5% deficit (should be about 0.5%; spillage possibly not being recorded properly, or complimentary drinks not recorded were the two possible reasons for this). Ideally stock take should be made every couple of months, so this is something to consider for incoming committee. We need more help for Social Club to ensure it is run more efficiently – we need more help as it's too difficult for people on committee do their role and run Social Club at the same time.
 - Is it an option to employ people? With close to 1000 members this is not the way to go.

2. Friends of Clonduff
 - Daniel explained Friends of Clonduff Account.
 - Lotto is the main source of income. We are also now going to erect 2 booths in the two shops with envelopes for entries. Thanks to everyone who assists with the Lotto in anyway.

3. Income and Expenditure Account
 - Membership slightly up on last year
 - Club Shop Finances were outlined. Pearce Branagan jerseys allowed donation to be made to Charity. Gear has become an issue particularly when a team gets to a final and teams are walking about with different versions of gear. Executive have agreed that the gear in existence will run for the next 2 years before changing designs
 - CCS Scheme is dropping off
 - Thanks to all mentors who collected money for buses this year
 - Team meals – Diamonds did most of the meals this year in the Club and this worked very effectively
 - Players Insurance – capped at 4500Euro and Club therefore takes victim for the rest. Questioned if there is a big claim what happens – we have to pay up. This is perhaps something we need to look at.
 - Down Draw will go ahead as normal this year. Four or five people account for 80% of sales. It offsets fees but it's good to get fees paid and then get profit after that. Sales are definitely harder to come by. Daniel feels that membership would be best kept separate, but this could reduce sales of the tickets. Would it be better to run our own draw? We would have to cover the costs of prizes though

 - Daniel outlined Expenditure. He explained core costs of putting players on the pitch
 - We are out the cost of nearly £11000 for an operation and we can't recover any of this as limit already exceeded. This is probably a bigger issue for GAA.
 - Ladies fees are very expensive
 - Fees overall are up a huge amount from 2018 – is it time to increase our membership fees?
 - At what point does expenses for senior teams become too much? Felt that GAA is about volunteerism and it's an awful lot of money but senior management is an expensive game. Players are very happy with the current management. Discussion around this - we have underachieved in the past 20 years; would this have been better spent on youth but we can't forget about current crop of senior team. This cost over the past number of years could have paid for other investment. Views given on inside/outside managements. We need a commitment from all players for 2020 – winning a Senior Championship would also inspire our youth.
 - Shop has been going from strength to strength – Paudie presented Goretta and Noleen with a token of appreciation for their work

- Excess of Expenditure over Income = -£7434. We need to work on improving this figure – no money is guaranteed so this has to be sought after every year
- New juvenile Goal posts were purchased as they were required and these are safer
- Daniel clarified the Balance Sheet at year end – we really need an amount of £30-50000 in Cash at Bank to cover running costs
- FOC have to retain adequate funds to ensure Lotto Jackpot is covered
- Note 20 – comparison done with other clubs' memberships fees; Daniel discussed this in relation to his recommendation
- Colin Shields congratulated Daniel on his Report
- Daniel outlined an issue arising with a payment to O'Neills and the process that was followed due to an online banking scam and that the majority of the money will be recovered within 8-10 weeks
- Daniel thanked the committee and urged people to help

Chairman's Address

- Paudie said it was a privilege to be Chair of Clonduff in 2019 – very successful year; below is a summary of the key points of his address
- Urged people to support committee decisions
- Scór – Congratulations to Aoife Trainor on her All Ireland success
- Ladies Football – senior team reinstated and won Junior Championship
- Hurling – great year minus a number of regular players
- Football – progress was made
- Camogie – All Ireland Winners – huge honour; Best wishes for semi-final in January
- Membership – growing
- Juvenile Numbers – across all codes growing; Paudie thanked all relevant people for their work
- Paudie asked for cohesion, cooperation, trust and support across the board and encouraged parents to allow coaches to do their jobs. If parents want to be involved then get officially involved
- Social Committee – needs help otherwise it becomes unmanageable; this was detailed at length
- Clonduff Camogie – I know you were busy with all your successes but need a greater closeness with main club
- Volunteerism – the life blood of GAA and without it there would be no GAA
- Paudie outlined Club Wishlist of duties and urged people to come forward to help with these
- GAA should be accessible to all – don't force people away by making cost of membership beyond their means
- List of 'thank yous' was emphasized - members/mentors/players/sponsors and donors/Executive Committee/Officers
- Apologies – Paudie said he hadn't planned on stepping down in 2020 but other commitments won't allow him to continue; he hopes to come back to the role in the future
- Best wishes to the new committee

President's Address

We send our best wishes to Dean Davies at this time

Election of Officers

All seats declared vacant and the election was conducted by outgoing Chairperson Padraig Matthews.

Committee Elected 2019/20

Chairperson: Anita Brannigan

Vice Chair Person: Vacant

Secretary: Tommy Kelly

Assistant Secretary: Ciara Kelly

Treasurer: Vacant

Assistant Treasurer: Karen Rice

Registrar: Damian Fearon

Co Board Delegate: Brendan Murray

PRO: Vacant

Facilities Management Officer: Vacant

Adult Games Officer: Padraig Matthews

Juvenile Office: Paul McConville

Players Reps: Camogie: Guinevra McGilligan; Hurling: Shane Quinn; Ladies: TBC; Football: Padraig Matthews

Additional Members: John Murphy (Irish Language); Danny Nugent; Niamh Murray; Cathy Fitzpatrick; James McConville, Ross Carr, Jamie Fegan, Sheenagh Walsh, Aidan Brown (TBC), Attracta Brown (Health & Wellness), Daniel McPolin

New Chairperson's Address

Anita said she was humbled to take up this position and thanked people for their well wishes. She said this Club is part of her extended family. She asked everyone to put their hearts into Clonduff.

We will get the unfilled positions filled and there will be a specific role for everyone on the Executive. People take for granted that these roles will be filled and that jobs will get done but it isn't as simple as that. People say they know what's wrong with this Club – if so then do something about it! We need to spread the load and get more people involved. There is a lot of expertise in the room and we need to use it.

Anita thanked Paudie for his work over the past two years. She summarised the 'Wishlist' and again appealed for help. This club belongs to the people of Clonduff not the Executive – everybody should be working together for the good of this great club community. 'United we stand – divided we fall.' This is going to be a great year – let's make it happen in 2020.

Motions to AGM

First two motions related to membership – both taken together.

Daniel had spoken on this during Treasurer's Report and gave further explanation on the necessity for increasing fees.

Anita outlined her motion

Felt that most adult players are working, however, we don't want to exclude anyone if they can't afford it – if it does include County Draw Ticket that's a better deal

Jamie said that most players did buy the County Draw Ticket and the student option still available

It was agreed:

Juvenile membership (U18): £30 (£80 for 3 or more children in one family)

Adult player: £120 (including County Draw ticket)

Non-player: £40

Student player: £50

Motion carried on a majority vote

Recommendations

Daniel's recommendation was outlined on the Social Club – discontinue the sale of alcohol if we can't get a Social Club Committee together.

Felt that Social Club stays in place but we need to work on this

Paula's recommendation was outlined.

Felt that the sub-committees should look after their own underage codes

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 10.05 followed by brief Executive Meeting.

Signed:

(Cathaoirleach)

Dated: